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Viewing cable 08CAIRO2481, AMBASSADOR AND MOD DISCUSS IRAQ, PIRACY, AND

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#08CAIRO2481**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
08CAIRO2481	2008-12-08 08:20	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Cairo

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.al-akhbar.com/node/9135>
<http://www.al-akhbar.com/node/9164>
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<http://www.al-akhbar.com/node/10185>

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 002481

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/06/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [MASS](#) [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [IZ](#) [IR](#) [IS](#) [KPAL](#) [SO](#) [EG](#)
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR AND MOD DISCUSS IRAQ, PIRACY, AND
MILITARY COOPERATION

Classified By: Ambassador Margaret Scobey per 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Summary: During a December 6 meeting, Ambassador and Minister of Defense Field Marshal Tantawi discussed regional security issues, including the new U.S.-Iraq security agreement, Iran, combating piracy, Palestinian reconciliation, and the upcoming Military Cooperation Committee (MCC) meeting in Washington. On combating piracy, Tantawi noted that Egypt stood ready to contribute naval assets under a United Nation's force. On the security agreement, Tantawi agreed that the agreement's approval represented a defeat of Iranian efforts to interfere in Iraqi affairs and believed the lost would encourage a "change in Iranian" policy on Iraq and dealing with the U.S. government. On the Arab-Israeli peace process, he hoped President-elect Obama would immediately engage on supporting a comprehensive peace agreement and reaffirmed Egypt's commitment to the difficult task of mediating intra-Palestinian reconciliation. End Summary.

Iraq, Security Agreement, and Iran

¶2. (C) Ambassador noted the importance of the recently approved U.S.-Iraq security agreement, adding that the agreement clearly affirms Iraqi sovereignty, calls for the withdrawal of combat troops by 2011, and gives Iraqi authorities jurisdiction over some criminal cases involving

U.S. personnel. Ambassador also noted that unlike the security agreement, which focuses on the next three years, the recently approved Strategic Framework Agreement will support a wide-range of cooperation between the American and Iraqi governments on economic, political, social, and cultural issues. Tantawi agreed that the security agreement's approval represented a defeat of Iranian efforts to interfere in Iraqi affairs and believed the loss would encourage a "change in Iranian" policy on Iraq and dealing with the U.S. government.

Piracy: Ready to Contribute to United Nation's Force

13. (C) During a general discussion on combating piracy, Ambassador expressed USG support for deepening cooperation with the international community to counter piracy in the Horn of Africa region. Tantawi expressed confidence that the United Nations could find a solution to the question of handling the detention and prosecution of pirates captured at sea. Tantawi also shared Egypt's willingness to contribute naval assets to combating piracy under the "United Nation's flag." Ambassador also applauded Egypt's leadership on bringing together Red Sea states to coordinate counter piracy efforts (reftel).

Israel-Palestine

14. (C) Tantawi hoped that President-elect Obama would immediately engage on negotiations for a comprehensive peace agreement after entering office. Ambassador noted the USG's appreciation of Egyptian efforts to mediate between Palestinian factions. Tantawi noted that the mediation efforts were "difficult" but expressed Egypt's commitment to supporting Palestinian reconciliation.

Military Cooperation

15. (SBU) Tantawi looked forward to the upcoming MCC meetings in Washington December 16 - 17. Major General Fuoad al Halmi noted that the major topics of conversation would be 1) Foreign Military Financing cases in support of Egypt's five-year modernization plan, 2) co-production of M1A1 tanks, and 3) military cooperation, including Bright Star exercises.

16. (C) Ambassador agreed with Tantawi in the continued strategic importance of Bright Star exercises as a symbol of cooperation between moderate Arab countries and the United States on combating regional security threats. She recommended that he discuss this with General Petraeus when they meet. Halmi also noted that Egypt hoped to discuss the "political release" of certain weapons systems such as the TOW-2B, Javelin, and Apache Longbow. Ambassador noted that - while not the only impediment - the lack of the necessary agreement providing end-use assurances and ensuring proper protection of certain U.S. origin technology impeded further discussions on releasability.

SCOBey